while the matter relating to the setting up of Nodal Agency was under the consideration of the Government, the concerned enforcement agencies who were represented in the Vohra Committee continued to take action against various crime syndicates under the laws of the country as contemplated.

Losses Due to Demurrage Claims

*95. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been incurring huge losses on account of demurrage
claims by ship-owners because of delays at various Indian ports;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of losses (in foreign exchange) suffered during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to upgrade and expand the ports to minimise the losses and the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT: (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Issues and Problems facing Jail Administration and the Undertrials

*96. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recommended to Chief Justice of High Courts and Chief Ministers of various States to causea review of the undertrials to resolve the problems of jails and the undertrials;

(b) if so, what is their response to this recommendations; and

(c) what are the precise issues and problems facing the jail administration and the undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b)The Central Government interacts with the State Governments at various levels from time to time in order to discuss and remedy the deficiencies in the administration of Criminal Justice System including, *inter alia,* the problems of jails and undertrials. The State Governments have responded positively to me recommendations made and decisions taken during the interactions.

(c) The major issues facing the jail administration and the undertrials primarily relate to pendency of cases in various courts leading to overcrowding in jails and other connected problems, rehabilitation of prisoners, service conditions and training needs of jail staff, etc.

Acquisition of Flexible Pipes by ONGC

*97. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1602 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th December, 199S and
state:

(a) whether flexible pipes proposed to be imported by MDL for HX-HY platform have been used in India only for water injection platform and how far these pipes would be suitable for carrying gas and oil;

(b) whether Government have reviewed MDL's quotations and examined the technical suitability of flexible pipes particularly during hydro tests and problems of gas leakage, failure of dynamic risers and couplings; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether ONGC has advised MDL to invite international bids for rigid and flexible pipes; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) In the past, ONGC has installed flexible pipelines of short lengths in small quantities for oil, gas and water injection services.

(b) After detailed review, ONGC has firmed up the rigid pipeline system option with MDL.

(c) The project has been awarded on a nomination basis and is being executed as a